

SN. 10/644,595

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REMARKS

Claims 2-17 are now pending in this application for which applicants seek reconsideration.

Amendment

Independent claim 1 has been canceled, and claims 2 and 15 have been placed in independent form. Claims 4, 9, and 12 have been amended to depend from claim 2. Claims 12-14 have been amended to improve their form, namely changing "where" to --wherein--. No new matter has been introduced.

As the present amendment merely calls for placing certain dependent claims into independent form, applicants submit that no new issue has been introduced.

Allowed and Allowable Claims

Claim 8 was allowed, and claims 15-17 were indicated to be allowable if they are placed in independent form. Claim 15 has been placed in independent form. Accordingly, at least claims 8 and 15 are now in condition for allowance.

Art Rejection

Claims 1, 4, and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by a newly applied reference, Koreishi (JP 11-208420). Claims 12-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Koreishi. Claims 2 and 5-7 stand rejected under § 103(a) as unpatentable over Koreishi in view of Kakinami (USP 6,476,730). Finally, claim 3 stands rejected under § 103(a) as unpatentable over Koreishi in view of Kakinami and Shimazaki (USP 6,711,473). Applicants traverse these rejections because the applied references would not have disclosed or taught superposing, at the reference position, at least one of the superimpose indicators on the captured image of a vehicle parked adjacent to the target parking position.

Each of independent claims 1 (now claim 2), 10, and 11 call for superimposing at least one of the superimposed indicators on the image of a vehicle parked adjacent to the target position, at a reference position at which the target parking position is viewable laterally of the vehicle.

The examiner argues that Figs. 11 and 20 of Koreishi display an image of the parking space to the lateral side of the vehicle that contains a parked vehicle adjacent to the desired parking space. While Koreishi discloses displaying the image of the parking space as argued by the examiner, Koreishi fails to disclose or teach superimposing at least one indicator on the

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parked vehicle. [Emphasis Added]. Indeed, neither Fig. 11 nor Fig. 20 shows any parking guidance indicator that is superimposed on the image of the parked vehicle itself. Kakinami and Shimazaki also fail to disclose or teach this aspect of the invention. Accordingly, each of independent claims 2, 10, and 11 distinguish over the applied references within the meaning of §§ 102, 103.

Moreover, claim 2 calls for an instruction unit that gives a start instruction of the parking assistance. The examiner, recognizing that Koreishi lacks this feature, relied upon Kakinami for the proposition including such a feature in Koreishi would have been obvious. Applicants disagree. Note that claim 2 calls for superimposing the superimpose indicators on the image on the image display unit when the instruction unit gives a start instruction of the parking assistance. Kakinami teaches nothing about initiating any superimpose indicators when it starts instruction of the parking assistance. Accordingly, claim 2 further distinguishes over the applied references.

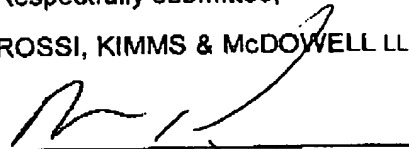
Conclusion

Applicants submit that claims 2-17 patentably distinguish over the applied references and are in condition for allowance. Should the examiner have any issues concerning this reply or any other outstanding issues remaining in this application, applicants urge the examiner to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution.

10/11/05
DATE

Respectfully submitted,

ROSSI, KIMMS & McDOWELL LLP



MARC A. ROSSI
REG. NO. 31,923

P.O. Box 826
ASHBURN, VA 20146-0826
703-726-6020 (PHONE)
703-726-6024 (FAX)